

Clearwing pheromones – useful for recording Tortricidae!

Having purchased a set of artificial pheromones for attracting clearwings I was, like most lepidopterists during the year 2002, less than delighted with the weather conditions that prevailed during June. Nevertheless, on a sunny, if somewhat breezy day on 19 June 2002 I donned my wellies and ventured into the London Wildlife Trust's Ickenham Marsh Nature Reserve in western Middlesex. The recommended pheromone combination of MYO + TIP + VES was assembled in a string bag and hung from a branch of a sapling oak at chest height on the edge of an area of (very wet) willow/sallow carr. After ten minutes there was no sign of the hoped for *Synanthedon formicaeformis* (Esper), but I had attracted half a dozen greyish tortricoids that were clearly doing their utmost to get to the pheromone lures. These were tubed whilst I continued the search for sesiids and were later identified as males of *Neosphaleroptera nubilana* (Hb.) — confirmed by examination of the genitalia. It seems odd that such a completely unrelated moth, with an unrelated range of foodplants, should be attracted to pheromones designed for *S. formicaeformis*.

I did eventually find a male *S. formicaeformis*; after ten minutes of nothing I moved the lures two metres away and hung the bag on a willow branch, again at chest height. A male arrived within five seconds. Fussy little blighter!— COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP (E-mail: colinwplant@ntlworld.com).

Dryocoetes autographus (Ratzburg) (Col.: Scolytidae) in East Suffolk

The bark beetle *Dryocoetes autographus* was for long considered to have an essentially northern and western distribution in this country. Recently, however, Allen and Owen reported its occurrence in a fallen Spruce on Esher Common, Surrey in September, 1999 and summarised its British history (Allen & Owen, 2000). *Dryocoetes autographus* (Ratzeburg) (Col.: Scolytidae) in Surrey, apparently new to south-east England, with a taxonomic note. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 121).

On 4 July 2001 I found a single example crawling on an unidentified conifer trunk in the Shrubland Park Estate wood yard, Coddendam, East Suffolk (grid reference TM 1252) but careful searching failed to reveal any further specimens. Although the estate has its own extensive plantations of Spruce and other conifers, some coniferous timber is brought in these days from other parts of East Anglia, in particular from the extensive forests around and in the Suffolk/Norfolk Breck, so the beetle could have been transported to the site from elsewhere.

These two recent records from areas well outside the beetle's previously known distribution in this country may indicate that *D. autographus* is currently in the process of extending its range.

I thank Lord de Saumarez for permission to record on the Shrubland Park Estate.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.